

1-25 (Canceled)

26. (Currently amended) A method of eradicating insects comprising the steps of,
- providing a liquid solution consisting essentially of at least one surfactant dissolved in said liquid,
- said surfactant is selected from the group consisting of non-ionic surfactants, ethoxylated nonylphenol, amphoteric surfactants, and cationic surfactants,
- maintaining the solution substantially devoid of an insecticide or other substance that is toxic to non-insect species including higher animals and humans or is harmful to the environment,
- placing the liquid solution of the surfactant in a dispensing container,
- expelling the solution from the container as a spray or aerosol,
- applying the spray or aerosol onto the surface of an insect pest ~~to thereby~~ ,
- ~~envelope~~ enveloping the insect in a film of the solution so as to reduce the surface tension at the outer layer of the insect's chitinous exoskeleton such that the solution coats out on to the insect blocking spiracles through which the insect breaths sufficient to interfere with respiration thereby killing the insect[.] solely by means other than toxicity of said insecticide or other substance.
27. (Currently amended) The method of claim 26 including the step of providing as said liquid an aqueous solution.
28. (Currently amended) The method of claim 26 including the step of providing as said liquid a non-aqueous ~~solutions~~ solution.
29. (Original) The method of claim 26 including the step of providing a thickener in said solution for increasing the viscosity of said liquid solution.

30. (Currently amended) The method of claim 29 including the step of providing as said thickener at least one member selected from the group consisting of ~~a carbohydrate~~, a water dispersible cellulosic, an oil emulsion, a protein, and a water soluble or water dispersible synthetic polymer.
31. (Original) The method of claim 26 including the step of providing as said surfactant, a surfactant having a hydrophil/lipophil balance between about 4 and 17.
32. (Original) The method of claim 26 including the step of providing as said surfactant a plurality of surfactants.
33. (Currently amended) The method of claim 26 including the step of providing in said liquid a source of biocompatible cations selected from the group consisting of potassium, sodium, calcium, magnesium, water-soluble borate zinc, Ca (OH)₂ and copper.
34. (Currently amended) The method of claim 26 including the steps of providing an insect ~~detection means~~ control apparatus for detecting the presence of an insect pest, detecting the presence of an insect thereby and spraying the solution of the liquid in said dispensing container on to the insect through operation of the control apparatus acting responsive to the presence of the insect thus detected[.] by said control apparatus.
35. (Original) The method of claim 34 wherein the sound of the insect is detected.